

Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. today issued the following statement regarding Mayor Daley's latest proposal to build a new stadium for the 2016 Olympics in Washington Park on the city's South Side:

"I am pleased that Mayor Daley, after 17 years, is contemplating building infrastructure on the South Side. I have always been a supporter of the city's efforts to land the Olympics.

"While I would welcome a privately-financed, 95,000-seat stadium on the South Side, I would encourage the Mayor to drop his opposition and join me in building a privately-financed third airport for Chicago. That would create 15,000 new full-time jobs as well as billions of dollars in economic development at a fraction of the cost and time, and make it easier for the Olympians and visitors to get here.

"Also, I firmly believe that our neighborhoods should benefit from the permanent infrastructure that accompanies the games. Marathons should be run in our communities not just downtown. Our schools and transportation systems should benefit from all of the improvements that are left after the games."